

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair Broadcasting Group (SBG), one of the country's largest TV station owners, has told its 62 stations -- which together reach one-quarter of American homes -- to air "Stolen Honor: Wounds That Never Heal." It is yet another incident of Sinclair using the public airwaves to broadcast politically partisan views. SBG is obligated by law to serve the public interest but one-sided programs like "Stolen Honor" do not, and are harmful to our democracy.

Worse yet, many of these stations are in key battleground states, such as Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. And as SBG refuses to air Pro-Kerry programs, such as "Going Upriver," viewers, subjected to tainted journalism, are misled into believing only one point of view. Unfortunately, this is a constant method of operation for SBG. In April, Sinclair wouldn't let seven of its ABC affiliates air the "Nightline" episode with the reading of the names of U.S. troops who died in Iraq, but it does require its stations to air pre-recorded conservative commentaries.

In this era of increased media consolidation, real news is getting harder to find. Big corporations can slant the news to fit whatever bottom line or agenda they have. I urge you to help stop Sinclair and strengthen media ownership rules.